

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Meeting of Friday, August 28, 2009
Bangs Community Center, Room 101

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Harry Brooks, Mary Streeter, Carol Gray (arrived 4:51), Rob Crowner

1. Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:44pm.
2. Minutes of 8/13 and 8/20 meetings informally discussed and edited before meeting began; no action taken.
3. Scheduling of Informational Forum and Warrant Review:

Nonny reports that the Town Room is available and currently reserved for TMCC only on October 6 and October 27, not October 14 and October 20 as the committee had planned. She also reserved the Bangs Center Large Meeting Room for October 14 and the Bangs Center Pole Room for October 20 as a contingency.

Mary reports that it is the Select Board Chair's intention to sign the warrant four full weeks before the start of any town meeting, meaning that the warrant would be signed on October 5 this year, with the first packet mailed by October 7 and the second by October 21. Neither of the available Town Room dates would be convenient for the Warrant Review.

Harry suggests using the ACTV studio for the Warrant Review, but Peggy points out that parking there significantly limits attendance.

Carol suggests returning to the Middle School for the Warrant Review if it is available, and it is agreed that October 14 will be the preferred date with October 13 and October 15 the fallback dates in that order. Mary already has a call in to the district office and will follow up.

The committee agrees that the Informational Forum will be held October 27 in the Town Room and the Bus Tour will take place on October 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 if the committee determines that it will be useful. Harry will make arrangements for the bus.

Mary suggests making room reservations for the 2010 Annual Town Meeting right away so as to avoid being shut out of space. Anticipating that ATM will begin the first week of May, the committee agrees to schedule the Warrant Review for Wednesday, April 14, with April 13 and April 15 as fallback dates in that order. Nonny will reserve the Town Room asap.
4. Budget presentation proposal:

Carol distributes a draft of a message she proposes the committee send to the Select Board and the Finance Committee inviting them to send representatives to an ad hoc subcommittee to discuss the TMCC's proposal for a random ordering of the municipal budget motions at Town Meeting. The committee approves the wording of the message and agrees to cc: the Moderator in order to keep him apprised of the action.

5. Forum topic:

There is a brief discussion of the membership of the forum topic subcommittee, which, it is discovered, is not described in the minutes of August 20.

Mary notes that the town's phased-growth zoning bylaw is due to expire or be replaced in November and suggests that this might be an appropriate topic for the forum. Following discussion of pros and cons of this topic, as well as some history of the phased-growth bylaw, Carol proposes a working title of "Smart Growth/Phased Growth", to encompass a broad range of related topics, and the committee approves.

Nonny suggests that all members brainstorm potential issues and speakers on their own to discuss at the next meeting or to deliver to a subcommittee. The committee begins discussing and brainstorming immediately. Several potential speakers are suggested and various members agree to contact them. Peggy requests that all members bring three ideas to the next meeting.

6. Future meetings:

The previously proposed schedule for committee meetings (see minutes of 8/20/09) is affirmed. Mary would like to begin scheduling precinct meetings; Harry, Carol, and Rob agree to host those for 6, 7, and 9 respectively. Peggy and Harry agree to organize the Warrant Review.

Carol requests that it be confirmed that the committee is being kept in the loop with regard to meetings being held to organize Fall Town Meeting itself.

7. The meeting is adjourned at 5:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of August 13, 2009
3. draft minutes of August 20, 2009
4. draft of message to other boards and committees regarding proposal for random ordering of municipal budget motions